

Receiving the keys to your new home is a very exciting time and there may be many things once you are in your new home that you may need support with. This may at first seem daunting and quite scary but equally there are many ways to find that support. The important thing is to not forget or ignore things you need help with in the hope that they will go away.

If it is appropriate your family and friends may be a good place to start to find any support that you need. Relations and friends are very often able to provide moral as well as physical support and of course in a much more informal basis.

Please refer to the section on Family and friends.

Is this your first place, do you consider yourself to be vulnerable?

If this is your first tenancy or you are vulnerable there are many organisations within Dudley that may be able to offer you support depending on your circumstances.

These support schemes maybe be known as Tenancy Sustainment teams or Floating Support Schemes and are generally run by Housing Associations, Charities or the local authority.

For more information please refer to the section on tenancy support.

When you find somewhere to rent, you will be asked to sign a Tenancy Agreement – it is a legally binding contract, so you need to understand what you are agreeing to. As with any other legal document, you really need to read the small print and make sure that you can keep to the conditions (rules) of the tenancy.

Do not leave it until the day that you get your keys to start collecting your furniture. It will cost much more than you thought and suddenly all those people who were going to help you may have other things to do.

When you move into a new place there are lots of things to do, forms to fill in, things to buy like food and cleaning materials, changing your benefits, changing the details with your bank, cleaning, getting the electricity turned on. If you haven't got any furniture the whole thing can turn into a nightmare.

You probably do not want to move in with no furniture and you could end up in rent arrears because Housing Benefit will not pay until you are moved in and they do check.

[:: more on free and cheap furniture](#)

It is best not to put off decorating your property, the longer you leave it the more of a chore it will become. It is important to do things in the right order. If you don't have much money and you can only do a bit at a time then you may be tempted to start with the walls but this will be a big mistake.

Not every landlord will allow you to have pets but if you do have a pet you need to make sure that it does not damage your home or become a nuisance to other people. You also need to look after it properly or someone will probably report you to the Police, the RSPCA or your landlord.

[:more on keeping pets in your home](#)

When you move into your new property you will need to start thinking about how you spend your money. Money can disappear through your hands like water if you are not careful.

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